



City of Champions *Linda M. Balzotti- Mayor*

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Brockton to celebrate Lights On Afterschool *Youth programs to celebrate annual event Oct. 21st*

BROCKTON – Over 1,000 young people will be participating in programs celebrating the 11th annual Lights on Afterschool, at 16 sites across the city on Thursday, Oct. 21st.

Brockton's celebrations are part of a nationwide effort showcasing afterschool programs organized by the Afterschool Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of afterschool programs and advocating for quality, affordable programs for all children. According to the nationwide non-profit, there are approximately 7,500 events scheduled across the country featuring a variety of educational activities that children engage in at afterschool programs every day.

"Providing quality afterschool programming is important for a community to thrive," said Mayor Linda M. Balzotti. "These programs provide a vital outlet for young people who need activities, and for parents who want to make sure their children are engaged."

In Brockton, these events will be held at: Field House Day School; Angelo School; Arnone School; Baker School; Brookfield School; Davis School; Downey School; George School; Hancock School; Huntington School; Westfield Child Center; Brockton Church and Community After School Program; Boys and Girls Club; and Old Colony YMCA.

Most of the programs begin at 4 p.m.

Eleven of Brockton's 16 Lights On Afterschool locations are sites for the Brockton Public Schools extended day program, Smart Start.

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“Smart Start gives students an additional opportunity to learn and grow in a safe and creative setting,” said Superintendent of Schools Matthew H. Malone. “It takes classroom learning and merges it with fun activities that allow children to hone their math and reading skills, while also providing opportunities for youth to express themselves creatively.”

“Afterschool programming also provides children with the opportunity to interact with caring adults and mentors, which is one of the five promises of Brockton’s Promise. That group helped facilitate this event. Research shows that making those connections makes children more likely to succeed as adults,” said Director of Community and Social Services Koren Cappiello. “The programs also help to keep school-aged children engaged in positive activities and out of trouble, while also exposing them to positive options for their future.”

According to recent data from the Afterschool Alliance, 30 percent of middle school students, and four percent of elementary school students nationwide are unsupervised at the end of the school day.

This year marks the 10th year the city has participated in Lights On Afterschool.

“Brockton has truly been a leader in the national celebration of Lights On Afterschool,” said Patty McGrath, Director of Get on B.A.S.E (Building After School Excellence). “With the support of the Mayor’s Office, Get on B.A.S.E. has been honored to work with Brockton after school providers since 2000 in the planning and celebration of this event. Brockton’s Promise is to be commended for its work this year to engage the community in Lights on Afterschool, and to build community awareness about the important role Brockton’s after school program’s play in the lives of thousands of children.”

For more information about Brockton’s Lights On Afterschool activities, contact Koren Cappiello, Director of Social and Community Services in Mayor Linda M. Balzotti’s Office, at (508) 580-7123 or Heather Arrighi, Director of Program Services in Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz’s Office at (508) 894-2576.



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